



Our Home, our Country, and our Brother Man.

THE CATTLE DISTEMPER.

We feel pained to be obliged again to record the alarming increase of the fatal cattle disease among the herds of western Massachusetts. This disease, as our readers may be aware, is ascertained to have been originally communicated by an imported animal in the herd of Winthrop R. Cheney of Belmont. It first attracted attention in the herd of Leonard Stoddard of North Brookfield, who lost several of his best animals. Since then it has been communicated by contact with other herds, until it has finally extended itself not only throughout that town, but into contiguous neighborhoods and towns, threatening to ravage the entire agricultural portions of the State. The means placed at the disposal of the Commissioners by the Legislature, are manifestly inadequate to the thorough performance of the great work with which they are charged. It is thought that a sum not less than \$200,000 would be necessary to enable them to circumscribe its present limits and exterminate the disease, and it is proposed to obtain an increased appropriation from the State to that amount. Meanwhile subscriptions are being obtained to a guaranty fund, sufficient to authorize and enable the Commissioners to proceed vigorously with their work.

A meeting of the State Board of Agriculture was held in Boston on Tuesday last, for the purpose of devising some mode of action in reference to the matter. The Commissioners submitted an extended memorial in regard to the disease, from which we make the following extracts:

The Commissioners appointed under the act of the Legislature of March 1859 to extirpate the disease called *Pleuro-Pneumonia*, now existing in certain towns in the Commonwealth, have been for several weeks endeavoring to accomplish their duty. They have encountered difficulties which they labored in the outset were very great. The disease had existed for many months in the locality to which they had been appointed, and the sale and exchange of animals, it had been scattered abroad throughout a section of country where chief business is agricultural, and where the isolation of many of the farms rendered it difficult to trace it. The delay incident to legislation, had complicated and extended the trouble. An extensive and costly investigation had been conducted for the purpose of checking the work of extermination. And the unexpected extent of territory which contained the infection, and through which the Commissioners have been obliged to feel their way, rendered their task perplexing and burdensome to the highest degree. They found, moreover, that beyond a narrow circuit where the disease had done its worst of actual destruction, the public mind was not aroused to a sense of the danger. The farmers who were remote from the early scenes of the catastrophe were repose in confidence, and were even congratulating themselves upon their safety, while they were actually carrying the disease to their own homes. Nothing but a series of facts, established with great labor and delay by the Commissioners, and which they have endeavored to present to the public mind, could have induced them to take any steps to prevent its further spread. And it was not until the certainty of the infection was demonstrated beyond a doubt, that they remembered how carefully they had been endeavoring to ascertain the limits beyond which it seems impossible that the disease can have progressed.

The difficulties which existed in the outset have not diminished, and they are now daily increasing. Where there was at first apathy, there is now alarm. The calls to investigate districts where the slightest suspicion exists, are now being made. Discoveries are being made; and already the Commissioners find that in spite of their untiring efforts to pursue every animal which may be found carrying the disease with him, and to extirpate every vestige of his path, some may have escaped them, and have carried the disease beyond their reach. In addition to this, herds that have been confined through the winter are now roaming over the pastures, and the infection is being carried to new localities. They have destroyed all the cattle in the State which they have been able to find, and they have endeavored to prevent the disease from being carried to new localities. They have endeavored to prevent the disease from being carried to new localities. They have endeavored to prevent the disease from being carried to new localities.

The central point of the infected district, it is well known, is North Brookfield, the farm of Leonard Stoddard, into which the disease was thoughtlessly and innocently introduced, and from which it has been carefully allowed to go out. Around this spot the infection is complete; but few animals, indeed, being left in the unfortunate town. The disease has been discovered in the north, in those parts of New Braintree, Oakham and Rutland lying contiguous to North Brookfield; on the east, in Spencer; on the south, in Brookfield and Sturbridge; and on the west, in West Brookfield, Ware and Warren. It is believed that the precise course and extent of the disease have been explored in each of these towns.

The number of persons whose cattle have been condemned or destroyed is 15. The number of animals already marked or killed, is 750. The Commissioners wish they could assure the Board of Agriculture and the community that their work was done here. But they cannot. The fire that is wasting prairie and forest may apparently be quenched for a time, and it is only by the most careful and persistent watch, and by the most vigilant and energetic measures, that the disease can be kept from breaking out again. The disease is now in the hands of the Commissioners, and they are endeavoring to prevent its further spread.

That from seed taken from the middle, produced six hundred and sixty-three pounds of sound corn in the ear, one hundred and sixty-four pounds of soft corn, and one thousand two hundred and ninety pounds of stover.

That from seed taken from the small ends, produced seven hundred and forty-seven pounds of sound and fifty-three pounds of soft corn, and one thousand three hundred and twenty pounds of stover.

Comparing the crops grown on this acre, and estimating the sound corn at one and the soft corn at half a cent per pound, and the stover at seven dollars the ton, the value of the crop, the seed of which was taken from the large end, was

That from the tips, 747 pounds sound corn, 53 " soft, 1320 " stover, \$7 47, 4 63, \$12 10.

In this case, the seed from the tips produced most, that from the tips the next, and that from the middle the least in money value; but the tips produced the most, the butts the next, and the middle the least sound corn; while the middle produced most, the butts the next, and the tips the least soft corn.

MARYLAND INSTITUTE.

We have received from our friend Whitman the following circular in reference to the next Exhibition of the Maryland Institute, which many of our New England mechanics will probably attend:

Circular. Dear Sir:—The Thirtieth Annual Exhibition of the Maryland Institute for the Promotion of the Mechanical Arts, will open early in October next. The Institute will be held in the city of Baltimore, and will be one of the most important and successful of the kind in the United States.

TREATISE ON GRASSES AND FORAGE PLANTS.

The fifth edition of this valuable work, by C. L. Fillet, the indefatigable and industrious Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture, has just been issued from the press of Crosby, Nichols, Lee & Co., of Boston, and can be found at Standwood's. It has been revised and very much enlarged. It is now one of the most complete works on these subjects, combining happily together both the botanical and agricultural sciences pertaining to the existence and cultivation of these indispensable portions of the vegetable kingdom and farm crops. It makes a handsome volume of nearly four hundred pages, and contains one hundred and seventy neat illustrations of grasses and forage plants. Since the first edition, it has been very much enlarged by the addition of good practical matter, and yet the subject has by no means been exhausted; indeed, considering its vital importance to the prosperity of Northern agriculture, it has hardly begun.

We have read his several remarks on Indian corn with interest. Indian corn is the king crop with us, (except on the contrary notwithstanding,) and we will give our readers the following extract, which may be in good time for them to consider.

He refers to the productive capacity of the kernels taken from different parts of the ear. An experiment to test this question was tried at the State Farm in 1858, and although one experiment may not be considered sufficient authority, it will have done weight. Two acres, he says, were planted on a light soil, well adapted to Indian corn; manured with seven and a half cords of barnyard manure to the acre, spread broadcast and cultivated in, and ten bushels of leached ashes and one hundred pounds of gypsum to the acre put in the hill. The corn was planted on the 3d day of June, in alternate rows, with seed taken from the large ends, middle and tops of the ears. It was hoed three times in the course of the season. One acre was harvested and husked with care, and the result noted on the 19th of October.

The rows planted with seed taken from the large ends of the ears, produced seven hundred and thirty-eight pounds of sound corn, and seventy-seven pounds of soft corn on the ears, and one thousand three hundred and sixty pounds of stover.

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